

 By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the prices of Victuals  
within the Verge of the Court.



Hereas heretofore diuers Bakers, Brewers, Inholders, Butchers, and other victuallers, through their greedy desire of vaine-gaine, not contented with reasonable profit in uttering and selling of victuals unto Our Subjects in the Common wealth, And specially within the verge of Our Court, where Our Nobilitie, Seruants and Train (daily attending vpon Our person) are lodged and placed by Our Harbengers, are vniuallly exacted vpon with vntreasonable and extreame prices, by the said victuallers, enhancing the same victuals, Horsemeat, Lodgings, and all other necessaries at a more deare price, then it was sold for (to Our common Subjects) before Our coming. And for that of late it appeareth vnto vs by the Records of Our Counting house, that all the Kings of this Realme, (Our progenitours) haue alwayes had a speciall care to restrain the exesse gaining by the aforesaid victuallers and others within the verge of their Courts, And also for that it further appeareth vnto vs, that of late more extreame exaction is vied by the foresaid victuallers, and others towards Our seruants, Train and Suiters, attending Our Courts wherefoeuer we make Our abode, then heretofore hath bene, Nothing respecting Our prerogative, nor the Lawes of Our Realme. Therefore Our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby straitly charge and command, that all persons doe obey and keepe all such prices, as is and shalbe prised, assessed, and rated by the Clarke of the Market of Our Household within the verge of Our Court, as well within Liberties as without; And the Jury before him, or his lawfull Deputie, by vertue of his Office swoyne and charged from time to time, The same Rates and prices not onely to be certified by Our said Clarke of the Market, or his Deputie into Our Counting house, But also fixed and set vpon the Gates of Our Court, and other places within the verge, as well within Liberties as without. And that no maner of the person or persons aforesaid, of what estate or degree soeuer hee or they be, doe in any wise pay more for Come, victuals, Horsemeat, Lodging or any other thing, then after the rate and forme aforesaid, vpon paine of imprisonment, & to be fined with further punishment that shall thereof follow. The same paines and punishments, and euery part thereof to be executed vpon all those persons, and euery of them which doe, or shall presume to aske or demand, utter and sel any maner of thing, or things, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation. And moreover we do straitly charge and command, that no maner of person or persons, no w bling, or which hereafter shal be, or of right ought to be to serue any City, Borough, towne or other place where Our repose & abode is, or shalbe, or elsewhere within the verge of Our Courts, as well within Liberties as without, with any kinde of Come or victuals, or other necessities, as well vpon the Market day, as at any other time, shalbe any thing the more remisse or slacke for making of provision for the same, then they or any of them heretofore haue bin, nor be any colour of craft to deceiue the buyers thereof, Nor hide or lay aside their Come, victuals, Horsemeat, Lodgings or any other necessities to diminish the Market, whereby Our whole Train within any City, borough, towne and other inhabitants of the same, and other Our Subiects thereunto resorting, should not be as well serued and as plentifully furnished in euery behalfe as it was before, or of right ought to haue bene in default of this Our ordinance. And furthermore we straitly charge and expressly Commande all Our Officers of Greencloth, Our Iustices of peace, Our Clarke of the Market, his Deputy or Deputies, Maiors, Bayliffes, Sheriffes, Countables, and all other Our faithful Officers & every of them, of Cities, Burroughes, Townes, Hundreds, and other places within the verge of Our Court as well within liberties as without from time to time, when, and as often as neede shall require, vpon Complaint by any partie iustly made, diligently euery of them within their authorities forthwith to endeavour themselves to see full punishment, and due reformation of the premises against such person or persons as shall offend herein, according to Justice and prices, as aforesaid.

Given at Our Court of Whitehall the fifth day of Nouember in the eleuenth yeere of our reigne of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, And of Scotland the feuen and fortieth.

God saue the King.

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most Excellent Maiestie. ANNO DOM. 1613.